

MINUTES

OF THE

Lower Canoochee Association,

IN SESSION AT

LOWER BLACK CREEK CHURCH,

Bryan County, Ga., from the 10th to the
12th of October, 1857.

SAVANNAH:

POWER PRESS OF JOHN M. COOPER & CO.

1857

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OF THE LOWER CANOOCHEE ASSOCIATION, IN SESSION AT LOWER
BLACK CREEK CHURCH, BRYAN COUNTY, GA., FROM THE 10th
TO THE 12th OF OCTOBER, 1857.

The Introductory Sermon was preached by Elder W. F. HOGARTH, founded on the 9th verse of the 6th chapter of John. "There is a lad here which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes; but what are they among so many?"

2nd. After thirty minutes intermission, the Messengers from the several churches, convened in the meeting house, and the Association opened by singing; prayer offered by Brother Rogers.

3d. The letters from the several churches were called for and read; messengers' names enrolled and statistics minuted.

4th. Organized the body by re-electing John G. Williams, Moderator, and E. Banks, Clerk.

5th. Invited brethren of the ministry to seats with us, who are of the same faith and order.

6th. Appointed committees as follows, viz: on preaching, brethren Adam Jones, Solomon Brannen and William Deloach, Sr. with the Messengers of this church. On business, Elder John G. Williams and brethren A. E. Bowers and Owen Gibson.

The committee on preaching, report as follows: Sunday, Forenoon, Elder A. Odum, followed by Elder John Evers; and Afternoon, Elder William M. Cooper, followed in the close, by Elder Wiley F. Rogers.

7th. On motion, adjourned to Monday Morning, nine o'clock.

SUNDAY.

In obedience to arrangement, the brethren preached, in the order of their names, to a considerable concourse of people, and agreeable to what seemed to be manifest, we trust their labors may be as seed sown in good soil; springing up and bring forth from thirty to an hundred fold.

MONDAY, 9 O'CLOCK.

Met according to adjournment, called the roll and proceeded to business.

1st. The report of the Arranging Committee was called for, amended and adopted.

2nd. Called for correspondence from Sister Associations; upon which, two letters and packages of minutes, were presented; one from the Primitive Ebenezer, borne by Elders Wm. M. Cooper, W. F. Rogers and John Buie; and one from Upper Canoochee, borne by

Elders A. Odum and A. Trappnel. The reception was gladly received, and on motion, it was manifested by the Moderator extending the right hand of fellowship to their respective messengers.

3d. Called for the Circular Letter, and after reading it before the body, (on motion) it was adopted without amendment, as prepared by Elder JOHN G. WILLIAMS.

4th. Called for Petitionary Letters. None.

5th. Appointed A. D. Bowers, O. Gibson and Wm. Deloach, Sr., committee to arrange general meetings, who report the following, viz:

1st. At Black Creek Church, S. C., Beaufort Dist., in November, 1857.

2d. At Ashe's Branch, Bulloch County, Ga., in January, 1858.

3d. Cedar Creek, Tattnall County, Ga., in May, 1858.

4th. At Nevill's Creek, Bulloch County, Ga., in August, 1858. All to commence on Saturday, before the fifth Sunday in their respective months.

6th. The next Association is to be held with the Church at Beard's Creek, Tattnall County, Ga., to commence on Saturday before the second Sunday in October, 1858.

7th. Elder John G. Williams, is to preach the Introductory, Elder W. F. Hogarth, his alternate.

8th. Correspondence to Sister Associations, are as follows, viz:—To Primitive Ebenezer, to convene with the Mt. Carmel Church, Wilkinson County, Ga., eight miles north of Irwinton, to commence on Saturday before the fourth Sunday in September, 1858; Elders W. F. Hogarth, John G. Williams, Matthew Donaldson, and brethren Jasper Wilson, Andrew Kickliter, William Lee, Sr., Richard A. Lane, Andrew J. Wilson, Benjamin Aycock, Owen Gibson and Elisha Banks. To Upper Canoochee, to convene at Limestone, Washington County, Ga., 4 miles west of Spear's Turnout, Central Rail Road. No. 11, Jefferson Co., on Saturday before the fourth Sunday in October, 1857; brethren John Proctor, Benjamin Aycock, William Lester, Owen Gibson, Simeon Banks, Andrew J. Wilson and Elisha Banks.

9th. Appointed the Clerk to prepare Corresponding Letter.

10th. Brother A. E. Bowers, is appointed to write a Circular for our next minutes.

11th. Ordered 800 copies of minutes to be printed, the Clerk to superintend the printing and distribution.

12th. Called for contributions.

13th. On motion for adjournment, the minutes were read, and then closed by singing; prayer offered by Elder W. M. Cooper.

JOHN G. WILLIAMS, *Moderator*,

E. BANKS, *Clerk*.

CIRCULAR LETTER.

To the Saints in Christ Jesus, Grace, Mercy and Peace be multiplied through God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.

DEAR AND MUCH BELOVED BRETHREN IN THE LORD—The time has again rolled around, that we, as an associate body, should address you by way of a Circular, and much might be said or written, in regard to our duty as children of God; but believing as we do, that the whole duty of man is found written in the word of God, we readily admit and think it useless to swell our minutes with lengthy circulars, unless more notice were taken of them; for we know, it is not the hearer of the word that is justified before God, but the doer of the word. And again we learn in the word of sacred truth, that it is not every one that saith Lord, Lord, is to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven, but he that doeth the will of the Father which is in Heaven; and the will of the Father is, that you keep his Commandments, and that you love one another. Now if we love one another in the spirit of Christ, the witness is, that we love God; but if we despise the children of God, the love of the Father is not in us; for if we love not our Brother whom we have seen, how can we love God whom we have never seen. Then Dear Brethren, we beseech you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, that ye abstain from every appearance of evil; and we pray God that your whole soul may be drawn out in prayer to him, and that you render yourselves as obedient servants unto God, by obeying the Gospel of His dear Son, and that ye be not led away by the insinuations of the wicked, who lie in wait to deceive and would deceive the very elect, if it was possible, for there are many deceivers gone out into the world and have deceived many, and by their dissemblings are leading many astray; not only those in whom the god of this world have blinded their eyes, but we fear that some of the saints, have for a time, been led from the path of rectitude, and the Body of Christ made to mourn; while others, who were once esteemed and loved by the Church, and believed to be Ministers of Jesus Christ, through the love of money, covetousness and pride, have erred from the faith and are rearing up or holding forth to the world, a doctrine, that they apparently once tried to pull down. As such Dear Brethren, we think such is carnal, and walk as men, and if there be any of the children of God among them, they are in disorder; as such, let us say to our Father's children, separate yourselves from every Brother, or that which walketh disorderly, and mark them that cause diversions among you and avoid them; suffer them not to enter into your houses: I mean, suffer them not to be members with you in the Church of Christ, neither bid them God speed.

Dear Brethren try the Spirits, and that by the standard of truth, for there is a Spirit now in the world that preaches a conditional salvation, that God has done his part, and if man will do his part, his soul will be saved, and if not, his soul will be lost. This Spirit, and the Spirit of Truth, cannot agree with each other; for the Spirit

of Truth says, by grace are ye saved, through faith, and not of yourselves. Its the gift of God; not of works, lest any man should boast. And again he sayeth, who hath saved us and called us, with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus, before the world began. As such, we think the promise of God is sure to all the seed, and not one will be lost to whom the promise was made, and the promise of God to his people, is, that the gates of Hell shall not prevail against them; for the foundation of God standeth sure; having this seal, the Lord knoweth them that are his. Then the grace of God, which was given us in Christ Jesus, before the world began, was manifested unto our sanctification and salvation; these children of promise, the adorable Jesus covenanted to save, and we believe they were saved according to the fore-knowledge of God the Father, before the world began; for the new covenant, which is a covenant of Grace, the adorable Father hath decreed, shall stand forever.

And the Lord said this is the Covenant that I will make with the House of Israel after those days; sayeth the Lord, I will put my Laws into their minds, and write them in their hearts, and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people.

Dear Brethren:—We do not believe in Fatalism, but believe that the Lord's people ought to be zealous of good works, for its the living children that God commands to work, and not the dead, for the dead cannot work.

We now close by saying again to the dear children of God to try the spirits and have no confidence in the flesh, but live by the faith of the Son of God, and that ye have no fellowship with the unfaithful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. Farewell.

JOHN G. WILLIAMS, *Moderator.*

E. BANKS, *Clerk.*

CORRESPONDING LETTER.

The Lower Canoochee Association, to Sister Associations with whom she corresponds, sends her annual Epistle of love in the Lord.

DEAR BRETHREN:—We are once more permitted through divine grace to assemble in an Association. We desire to be thankful to God for his great goodness to us, in bringing us to sit in council in the utmost harmony and peace. We can but adore the giver of all good in putting it into your hearts to send us such a goodly number of your Ministers, who we believe came to us in the fullness of the Gospel of Christ, without a jarring note; all, all, proclaiming grace, free grace, alone.

We hope you will continue your correspondence with us. Our next Meeting is appointed to be with the Church at Beards' Creek, Tatnall Co., Ga. (where we hope to meet your Messengers again,) on Saturday before the second Sunday in Oct., 1858.

JOHN G. WILLIAMS, *Moderator.*

E. BANKS, *Clerk.*

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

1. We Believe in one only true and living God, and that there are three persons in the Godhead : the Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
2. We believe in the Fall of Man, and his inability to recover himself.
3. We Believe Jesus Christ to be the Son of God.
4. We Believe in particular Election, effectual Calling of the Elect, and final preservice of the Saints.
5. We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be the word of God.
6. We Believe that Baptism, the Lord's Supper and the Washing of the Saint's Feet, are Ordinances of Jesus Christ, and true believers are the only fit subjects of these Ordinances, and believe the only true mode of Baptism is Immersion.
7. We Believe that no minister has the right to the administration of the Ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, only such as are regularly called and come under the Imposition of hands by a Presbytery.
8. We believe in a Final Judgment; in a future state of reward and punishment, and that of an eternal duration.

J. G. WILLIAMS, *Moderator.*

E. BANKS, *Clerk.*

RULES.

By which the Lower Canoochee Association shall be governed while in Session.

1. This Association shall be composed of Messengers from the Churches whose names are inserted in their Letters.
2. This Association shall have a Moderator and a Clerk, chosen by the Messengers present.
3. This Association shall open by Singing and Prayer.
4. This Association shall attend to all petitions and queries found in the Letters from the Church; and make such regulations and give such advice as they think proper.
5. All business shall come into this Association by a move and a second; and every move that is seconded shall be taken up by the Association and decided, except it be withdrawn by the mover.
6. There shall be no talking in time of public speech, and no reflections shall be cast upon the speaker.
7. No person shall be interrupted in time of public speech unless he depart from the subject in debate, and then only by the Moderator.
8. No person shall speak more than three times on any one subject without leave from the Moderator.
9. A majority of this Association shall govern in all cases, and no member, shall absent himself at any time without leave from the Moderator.
10. All violations of these Rules shall be reproved by the Moderator.
11. A majority of this Association may alter or amend these rules at any time.
12. And as there are so many institutions of men (called Benevolent Institutions) and this Association believing it to be her duty to provide for the General union of the Churches, she, therefore, declares non-fellowship with all the unscriptural institutions of the day, such as Theological Schools, State Conventions, Missionary Societies, Bible Societies, Tract Societies, and Temperance Societies, (so called) and all their kindred relations, holding them as unscriptural.

JOHN G. WILLIAMS, *Moderator.*

E. BANKS, *Clerk.*

CONSTITUTION.

WHEREAS, the assemblage of the Delegates at Lime Stone Church, Washington County, Ga., on Saturday before the fourth Lord's day in September, 1829, from the several Churches, viz: Newhope, Hebron, Limestone, Hines', Mill Creek, Foxbay, Canoochee, Lake, Upper Black Creek, Bethlehem, Little Briar Creek, Gumlog, Bathesda, having then and there agreed or covenanted together to become united in one body, called the United Baptist Conference or Association: but at the Association held at Lower Lott's Creek, Bulloch County, in the year 1847, agreed then to become two bodys for Convenience, called Upper and Lower Canoochee Associations; and we, the Lower Canoochee Association, composed of several Churches, viz: Nevill's Creek, Mill Creek, Elm, Upper Lott's Creek, Jones' Lake, Lower Lott's Creek, Bethlehem, Upper Black Creek, Line's Fellowship, Ashe's Branch, Lower Black Creek, Beard's Creek, Cedar Creek, Deloache's, Watermellon Creek, Elberthel, Foxbay, Salem and Gum Branch, do agree to unite on the following principles:—

1. This Association shall, if they think proper, meet annually as an advisory Council.

2. This Association shall be composed of Messengers from the several churches, so that each church may have two Messengers, if they choose, and no more; and the Messengers' names shall be inserted in their letters.

3. This Association shall have power to make its own Rules to govern itself; but none of its Rules shall be binding on the churches for they are free and of right ought to be.

4. It shall be the duty of this Association to give her best advice in cases of difficulty, and to endeavor to keep up a union among the churches composing her body and arrange General Meetings.

5. This Association shall admit into its body any church whom they find sound in faith and moral in practice. Also if any church in order wishes to withdraw from this body, she may at her discretion on application, have a letter of dismission.

6. As the love of money is the root of all evil, and has produced so much distress among Christians, we, wishing to live in peace, therefore this Association shall not engage in nor in any wise encourage any religious speculation called Missionary, or by any other name, under pretence of supporting the Gospel.

7. We, the Churches composing this association, believing the Books of the Old and New Testament to be the word of God, declare we take the New Testament for the Rule of our Faith and Practice, for we are not under the Law but under Grace.

E. BANKS, *Clerk.*

J. G. WILLIAMS, *Moderator.*

STATE OF THE CHURCHES.

		Note—Ordained Ministers' Names in SMALL CAPITALS.																			
NAMES OF CHURCHES.	COUNTIES.	MESSENGERS' NAMES.										Baptized.	Recommended by Letter..	Restored..	Dismissed..	Excluded..	Dead.....	Total No..	Money.....	Proportion of Minutes..	Time Meeting...
Lower Black Creek....	Bryan.....	Simeon Banks, John A. Davis.....															62	1.50		4	
Beard's Creek.....	Tattnail....	Redding Denmark, Jesse Kickliter.....															1	46	1.50	1	
Anderson's M. H.....	"	Henry Kenedy, Benjamin M. Colson.....															19	1.00		4	
Mt. Horeb, C. C.....	"	Solomon Kenedy.....															3	31	1.50	1	
Fox Bay, Reedy Creek.	"	Joseph Collins.....															25	1.25		2	
Jones' M. H.....	Emanuel....																				
Lower Lott's Creek....	Bulloch....	JOHN G. WILLIAMS, Andrew Kickliter.....															1	44	2.50	4	
Mill Creek.....	"	William Lester, Jasper Wilson.....								1							3	68	2.00	1	
Fellowship.....	"	Owen Gibson, Elisha Banks.....												2			1	31	1.50	1	
Lane's M. H.....	"	Richard A. Lane, Wm. Lee, Sr.....	2							1								52	1.00	2	
Ashe's Branch.....	"	Reddick Cribbs, Burrel Lanier.....								8							21	1.25		2	
Upper Lott's Creek....	"																				
Nevill's Creek.....	"	MATTHEW DONALDSON, Benjamin Aycock.....								1					1		51	1.25		2	
Deloach's M. H.....	"	Wm. Deloach, Sr., Elias E. Martin.....	1							2						2	35	1.25		2	
Bethlehem.....	"	Solomon Brannen, Chesley Parrish.....	4							1					1		40	1.25		3	
Lake M. H.....	"	M. Collins.....	1							2					1	1	50	1.50		1	
Upper Black Creek....	"	Adam Jones, John Proctor.....								2							55	1.75		3	
Black Creek.....	So. Carolina	Charles. Anderson.....										3	10		2	2	58	1.00		4	
Prince Williams'.....	"	Martin E. Terry, A. E. Bowers.....	3	1								1	4		4	114	2.00			3	
Sardis.....	"	James A. Floyd.....													8	1	32	50		4	
Whole Total.....			11	7	25					4	14	15	19	734	25.50						

Received of the Clerk, \$15,00 for Printing 800 copies of these Minutes.